

Helms-Burton and the pending legislation involving Libya and Iran come up, and if so, did you detect any change of views on the subjects?

**President Clinton.** We did not discuss that at all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:50 p.m. at the Prefecture. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A portion of this exchange could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Action To Renew Most-Favored-Nation Trade Status for China**

*June 27, 1996*

I applaud the action of the House of Representatives to approve my decision to renew most-favored-nation trade status for China. The strong bipartisan show of support today is clear evidence that the American people agree that engagement, not isolation, is the best way to advance America's interests with China as elsewhere.

This positive vote helps us continue to engage China on a broad range of issues, including human rights, nonproliferation, trade, regional security, and relations with Taiwan. It enables us to continue to strengthen cooperation while firmly addressing our differences. It is a strong vote in favor of America's interests.

As I meet with the G-7 leaders, this vote is also a strong reaffirmation of America's continued leadership and engagement in the world.

I thank the House of Representatives for its overwhelming support and look forward to continuing our work with the Congress on a bipartisan China policy that advances America's interests.

### **Statement on the Death of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Mollie Beattie**

*June 28, 1996*

America lost one of its great spirits with the untimely passing of Mollie Beattie. Mol-

lie was a person who believed in the value of life and wildlife so deeply that she dedicated her many talents to preserving God's gracious Earth.

As the first woman director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mollie presided over a sea change in the administration of the Endangered Species Act by improving the way Government worked. She was the number one advocate for our national wildlife refuges, forever fighting to keep the system strong and growing.

Mollie Beattie's devotion to this Earth and its creatures was passionate, caring, and wise. There is a grace and natural beauty in America; because of Mollie our country has even more of that grace. Hillary and I send our prayers and sympathies to Mollie's family. We will miss her.

### **Statement on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**

*June 28, 1996*

Today, the Chairman of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament's (CD) Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban tabled a compromise treaty text that reflects his best efforts to record agreement and resolve remaining issues. This action brings us one step closer to the day when no nuclear weapons are detonated anywhere on the face of the Earth. I applaud this milestone in our efforts to reduce the nuclear threat and build a safer world.

American leaders since Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy have believed a comprehensive test ban would be a major stride in the international effort against nuclear proliferation and toward our ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament. Over the past four decades, many world leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru of India and Harold Macmillan of Great Britain, along with citizens from around the globe have worked hard to achieve a CTBT. Today, such a treaty is within our reach.

As President, my most basic duty is to protect the security of the American people. That's why I have made reducing the nuclear threat one of my highest priorities.

As a result, for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, there are no Russian missiles pointed at our people. We entered into force the START I Treaty that will, in combination with the START II Treaty pending ratification in the Russian Duma, reduce by 14,000 the number of warheads deployed by the United States and Russia just 5 years ago. We convinced Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan to give up the nuclear weapons left on their land when the Soviet Union broke up. We persuaded North Korea to freeze its dangerous nuclear weapons program under international monitoring. We are working with countries around the world to safeguard and destroy nuclear weapons and materials so that they don't fall into the hands of terrorists or criminals. We led global efforts to win the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which bans the spread of nuclear weapons to states that do not have them.

It is now up to the 61 member states of the CD to study the Chairman's compromise treaty text and maintain the momentum toward a CTBT. I call on the members of the CD to return to Geneva in late July prepared to agree to forward a CTBT to the United Nations, so that a special session of the General Assembly can be held in August to approve the treaty and open it for signature in the United States in September.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **June 22**

In the morning, the President traveled from Houston, TX, to Cleveland, OH.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Democratic National Committee reception at the Slam Jam Sports Grill in Cleveland, OH. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

#### **June 24**

In the morning, the President traveled to Nashville, TN.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New York, NY.

In the evening, the President attended a Democratic National Committee dinner at the Plaza Hotel. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding beginning May 2.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding May 8-28.

#### **June 25**

In the afternoon, the President met with President Sixto Duran-Ballen of Ecuador in the Oval Office. Later, he met with President Lennart Meri of Estonia, President Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania, and President Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia in the Cabinet Room. He then met with President Islom Karimov of Uzbekistan.

The President announced his intention to appoint Margo H. Briggs to the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Board.

The President declared a major disaster in the State of Nebraska and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a tornado and severe storms May 8-28.

#### **June 26**

In the morning, the President hosted an ecumenical breakfast with religious leaders, including pastors, ministers, and heads of national organizations in the State Dining Room.

Later in the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Lyons, France. While en route, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of Israel who expressed condolences over the casualties caused by a terrorist bomb in Saudi Arabia.

The White House announced that the President will attend memorial services at